



Friends of St Lawrence Trust

Registered Charity No. 1112950

Dear Friends

Autumn 2019 – Newsletter

Autumn is upon us and the clocks change this weekend – just in case anyone is not aware. It is amazing just how often we get caught out but it is best at this time for the worst that can happen is that we turn up an hour early for whatever we are doing.

We have had a busy year and now is a chance to recap before we go into hibernation.

In March we hosted the Vamp til Ready Review in the Memorial Hall. Just over 100 people attended which was a bit of a squeeze. The review itself was a great success and the troupe gave us a wonderful performance that was enjoyed by all. The event raised just over £1,400 for The Trust.

At the end of April we held our annual Safari Supper. Only 32 people participated but generously contributed £430 to our funds. This event has been a fixture in our calendar for many years but in view of the dwindling numbers and interest, the trustees have decided to give it a break. Therefore we will not be holding the Safari supper in 2020. We will be happy to resurrect it in the future if we get sufficient demand.

In May, Pauline Wright hosted our annual coffee morning. This event usually heralds the start of summer fine weather but this year her luck ran out for the weather was simply awful. However 55 intrepid people attended and Pauline bravely opened her house to us. Despite the weather, the event raised over £600 which was a splendid effort.

On 29th June St Lawrence Church hosted a Camerata Concert in which the orchestra, led by Philippa Burch, entertained a full church. This event raised almost £500 for the Trust.

Hardly drawing breath, Caroline Walker hosted an Open Garden at Long Meadow on the following day. This time the heavens were kind for the day was beautiful and the temperature was perfect. 115 people came and tarried long enough to enjoy each other's company over tea and cake and to be entertained to song by Sounds Easy. This event raised nearly

£1,600. Next year we hope to revert to our usual format with a cluster of Bovingdon gardens in close proximity.

Our work to preserve our beautiful church and church yard goes on and we are so grateful for the support of the people of Bovingdon and the surrounding area. Our fund raising is mainly geared towards the redecoration of the interior of St Lawrence and this remains a continuing commitment. We wait for a signal from the PCC that they are ready to proceed.

In the meantime, the PCC has received its five year review of the church structure. This has resulted in a shopping list of remedial work aggregating nearly £27,000, of which the repair of the mechanism of the tower clock will amount to £11,000. So far the PCC has asked us for reimbursement of £6,400 which we have done.

The final event of the year will be the sale of our Christmas cards. These have now been printed and this will be the subject of a separate e-mail. All I will say at this point is that it is beautiful. The picture on the card was painted by Marion Perkins which she kindly donated in memory of Carl. They will be on sale at the Church Christmas Market on 16 November

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at our various events next year.

With best wishes

John Walker